

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INT-05 DEAE-00 PER-03

ABF-01 /034 W  
----- 066392

R 170815Z DEC 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5571  
INFO AMCONSUL NQA

UNCLAS TOKYO 17901

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AFSP, JA  
SUBJECT: REST AND RECUPERATION

REF.: STATE 86346; 3 FAM 698.5-1 & 2

### SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED:

IN VIEW ISOLATION, CLIMATE, HEALTH SITUATION AND LACK OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES, CONSIDER THAT CIVILIAN AGENCY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO OKINAWA NEED AND REQUIRE PERIODIC CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT DURING TOUR OF DUTY. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST OKINAWA BE DESIGNATED R & R POST WITH HONG KONG AS DESTINATION. END SUMMARY

1. OKINAWA IS A SMALL ISOLATED ISLAND. THERE ARE NO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AVAILABLE ON THE ISLAND. ONLY AIR TRAVEL TO HONG KONG (882 MILES), SEOUL (800 MILES), TOKYO (875 MILES), OR MANILA (900 MILES) WOULD PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENT, BUT COSTS FOR FAMILIES ARE PROHIBITIVE.

2. DIFFICULTIES EXIST IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH FOREIGN NATIONALS BECAUSE MOST OKINAWANS SPEAK LITTLE ENGLISH. FREQUENT USE OF AN INTERPRETER IS REQUIRED IF ONE WISHES TO COMMUNICATE TO ANY DEGREE AND EVEN THEN, MISUNDERSTANDINGS ARISE. ALL OF THIS TENDS TO INCREASE THE SENSE OF ISOLATION MOST AMERICANS FEEL.

3. CLIMATE IS SUB-TROPICAL. PROLONGED HIGH TEMPERATURES ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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EXTREMELY DEBILITATING. RELATIVE HUMIDITY AVERAGES 80 PERCENT

AND THERE IS A CONSTANT FEELING OF DAMPNESS AND STICKINESS. FUNGAL AND OTHER SKIN INFECTIONS ARE PREVALENT ON OKINAWA DUE TO THE HOT, HUMID CLIMATE. THERE IS A RELATIVELY HIGH RATE OF TUBERCULOSIS. THE CLIMATE AGGRAVATES ARTHRITIC AND RHEUMATIC CONDITIONS. CORAL DUST IS IN ABUNDANCE AND CAUSES FREQUENT AND PROLONGED RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS.

4. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ARE SEVERELY LIMITED, CROWDED, AND GENERALLY ORIENTED TOWARD UNACCOMPANIED U.S. FORCES PERSONNEL. CULTURAL FACILITIES ARE SCARCE; AND VISITING ARTISTS OR GROUPS APPEAR INFREQUENTLY.

5. TO PROVIDE OPTIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL, CULTURAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE, EMBASSY AND CONGEN NAHA RECOMMEND THAT HONG KONG BE DESIGNATED AS RELIEF AREA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THE AMBASSADOR AND THE CONSUL GENERAL REQUEST THAT OKINAWA BE DESIGNATED AS AN R & R POST AND THAT HONG KONG BE DESIGNATED AS THE RELIEF AREA. VOA, FBIS, TTPI (INTERIOR), AND DEA CONCUR IN THIS REQUEST.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TOKYO17901  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750438-0337  
**From:** TOKYO  
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**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <09 FEB 2004 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REST AND RECUPERATION  
**TAGS:** AFSP, JA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006